



Facts About...

Maryland's Draft 2008 Integrated Report

What is the Integrated Report?

The Integrated Report (IR) combines two water quality reports required under sections 305(b) and 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act. Section 305(b) requires states, territories and authorized tribes to perform annual water quality assessments to determine the status of jurisdictional waters. Section 303(d) requires states, territories and authorized tribes to identify waters assessed as not meeting water quality standards (see Code of Maryland Regulations 26.08.02). Waters that do not meet standards may require a Total Maximum Daily Load to determine the maximum amount of an impairing substance or pollutant that a particular water body can assimilate and still meet water quality criteria. Historically, the 303(d) List and the 305(b) report were submitted to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as separate documents but more recent guidance has called for combining these two reports into a single biennial publication. Maryland's 2008 IR represents the first edition of a fully combined 305(b) and 303(d) report.

Why compile an Integrated Report?

The CWA requires States, territories, and authorized tribes to: 1) develop water quality standards for all jurisdictional surface waters; 2) monitor these waters; and 3) identify and list those waters not meeting water quality standards. A water quality standard is the combination of a designated use for a particular body of water and the water quality criteria designed to protect that use. Designated uses include activities such as fishing, swimming, drinking water supply, and oyster propagation and harvest. Each use has associated water quality criteria, both numeric and narrative. Besides being required by EPA, the IR serves many other purposes relating to water quality planning for a number of state, county, and local agencies. By providing an update on the status of water bodies, the IR helps to prioritize which watersheds should be addressed by restoration and which watersheds are in need of protection.

What is the same for 2008?

The 2008 IR continues to use a multiple category reporting structure that includes the following 5 categories: *Category 1* – waterbodies that meet all water quality standards and no use is threatened; *Category 2* – waterbodies meeting some water quality standards and there are insufficient data and information to determine if other water quality standards are being met; *Category 3* – insufficient data and information are available to determine if any water quality standard is being met; *Category 4* – one or more water quality standards are impaired or threatened but a TMDL is not required; and *Category 5* [the historical 303(d) List] - waterbodies that are impaired, do not attain the water quality standard, and a TMDL is required.

What has changed from 2006 to 2008?

The 2008 IR will be the first time Maryland has submitted a single report satisfying section 305(b) and 303(d) requirements. Other changes this year include: a reformatting of the database for consistency with EPA's National Assessment Database and the ability to better track the size of impaired areas; and the implementation of new biological, toxic-polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in fish tissue, and bacteria assessment methodologies, which resulted in substantial changes in the number of listings.

The 2008 IR identifies forty-seven new impaired waters listings. Twelve of these are total suspended solids impairments in bay segments. Another seven listings are for metals (aluminum, iron, and manganese). Four are due to elevated bacterial concentrations in recreational contact waters and two are for estuarine bioassessments in bay segments. Eighteen more are for toxics (PCBs—in fish tissue). And there is one additional listing for each of the following impairments: pH, nitrogen (total), phosphorus (total), and debris/trash/floatables in a portion of Baltimore



Harbor. These additional impairment listings may reflect increased monitoring and improvements in assessment techniques, and do not necessarily indicate a decline in the State's overall water quality.

The 2008 303(d) list reflects continued progress implementing the new Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Standards and tidal segmentation. This year includes assessments for the 30-day mean dissolved oxygen, submerged aquatic vegetation acres, and the benthic community. In future years and in cooperation with the Bay partners, Maryland will continue to phase in new assessments, standards, and criteria. These future developments may also result in listing changes that are not necessarily related to changes in water quality.

How are we addressing these water quality issues?

Maryland completed a total of 89 Total Maximum Daily Loads and Water Quality Analyses in 2006 and 2007, 52 of which counted towards the memorandum of understanding with EPA. As a result of House Bill 1141, the state continued to work closely with local jurisdictions on including water quality and quantity considerations in their local comprehensive plans and MDE conducted extensive outreach in 2007 to facilitate improved local water resource planning efforts. Also in 2007, the state began interagency discussions to re-evaluate Maryland's comprehensive water monitoring strategy for consistency with current priorities and goals. Another initiative that gained momentum since the last IR is the Chesapeake Bay 2010 Trust Fund, which will provide a dedicated source of funding for nonpoint source nutrient and sediment control projects necessary to meet the goals of Maryland's Chesapeake Bay Tributary Strategies.

How can the public get involved?

There are a number of opportunities for the public to get involved in list development. Data solicitations are conducted prior to the development of each list during which volunteer groups, community groups, academia, local/State/federal governments and non-profits can submit data to be incorporated into the decision making process for the report. Draft methodologies for the determination of impairments are placed on the web and in libraries for public comment. A number of informational meetings are also held in support of the draft methodologies and Integrated Report. Finally, the report itself is available for public review on the web and at local libraries for the public to provide comments on the listings.

The Department will host three informational public meetings concerning the 2008 IR. The public is cordially invited to attend a meeting in a region of their choice. Any hearing impaired person may request an interpreter to be present at the meeting by giving five (5) working days notice to Matthew Rowe at mrowe@mde.state.us or by calling (410) 537- 3578. Comments or questions may be directed in writing to Linda Watson MDE, Science Services Administration, 1800 Washington Blvd., Baltimore Maryland 21230, emailed to 303d@mde.state.md.us, or faxed to the attention of Ms. Linda Watson at 410-537-3873 during the period between **March 12 through April 28, 2008**. After consideration of public comments, a final List will be prepared and submitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency for approval.

Central Region - April 15, 2008 in Baltimore, 6:00-8:00 PM at MDE Headquarters, 1800 Washington Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21230. Phone (410) 537-3873. This meeting is co-sponsored by the Patapsco/Back River Tributary Team. *(Directions: From points North, take I-95 South. Go through the Fort McHenry Tunnel. Exit at Exit 53 (=I-395/Martin Luther King Boulevard). Follow signs to Martin Luther King Boulevard to the right. Get into left lane after exiting. At the first traffic light, make a left onto Washington Boulevard. Follow Washington Boulevard for approximately one mile. Cross Monroe Street. Make a right into the Red parking lot. Meeting will take place in the Aqua meeting room on the first floor.*

Western Maryland Region – April 14, 2008 in Hagerstown, 6:00-8:00 PM at the University System of Maryland at Hagerstown, Room 124, 32 W. Washington Street, Hagerstown, MD 21740. Phone (240) 527-2060. This meeting is co-sponsored by the Upper Potomac Tributary Team. *(Directions: From points east, take I-70 West to the Route 40 West/Hagerstown exit. Continue east approximately two miles to Washington Avenue. Continue east until you merge with West Washington Street. Parking is located on both sides of the street.)*

Eastern Shore Region – April 22, 2008 in Salisbury, 6:00-8:00 PM at the Wicomico Co. Library Room 1, 122 S. Division St., Salisbury, MD 21803. Phone (410) 749-5161. This meeting is co-sponsored by the Lower Eastern Shore Tributary Team. *(Directions: From Business Route 50, turn south on Division Street. The library is three blocks down on the right, across from the fire department.)*

For further information, please call or email MDE at 410-537-3906/ 303d@mde.state.md.us